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in the name of Lwengo Kids Foundation – Putten

Annual report Lwengo Kids Foundation 2025

At the beginning of the year we were again faced with the challenge of asking the sponsors of all children who went to Primary 7 to pay the higher sponsorship amount for Primary 7. All children who go into Primary 7 boarding. They have slightly different school times and it is important that they can concentrate well and have enough time to work towards the exams that should give them access to the Secondary School. In the same email, the sponsors are also asked whether they want to sponsor their sponsor children at the secondary school in the following year. Most sponsors agreed. We entered 2025 with 259 children. That is more than the maximum number of 250 sponsor children. Last year it was decided that we would increase the maximum number of children to 300 children. The reason for this is that we want to grow towards a combination of both sponsor children at the Primary School and in further education, so that we have enough sponsor children at the Primary School to keep the involvement with Lwerudeso high. We are dealing with a bridging period and that is why we have increased the maximum number of sponsor children to 300 for the time being.

Arenda, board member PR, has indicated that he no longer wants to attend the meetings as an active board member. She will continue to do the work in the background for social media, making posters, making newsletters, etc.

Niels and Annelou, two volunteers who want to dedicate themselves to our project, will leave for Lwengo in January for about 5 months. Niels will be involved in the financial and administrative organization. Annelou will give extra attention to older girls, especially focusing on hygiene in menstruation and other female matters.

On February 8, we organize the annual brainstorming day, a good habit to discuss matters of more strategic importance with each other once a year in peace. This time our new board members Ronald van Veen and Sandra Timmer participate in this meeting. We share expectations, clarify our work in Lwengo and explain the ongoing donation requests. We also talk about a multi-year budget and the organizational structure for now and in the future.

In February, Erik (treasurer) and his wife Judith also visited Lwengo. A good experience as a board member.

Now that the Foundation is growing and the administration therefore takes more time and energy, an accounting package is being considered, which can save a lot of time. The package is also self-correcting, so that any errors can be avoided. So time-saving!

We say goodbye to Arenda this month because she no longer feels sufficiently involved now that she is no longer on the board. Marga will resume the PR tasks for the time being.

In April, Pieter and Marga will go to Uganda monitors and Sandra and Gert will travel with them for a few days to get to know the work in Uganda.

As a result of our monitoring, we have noticed a number of things: There are too many boarding children at school, which means that classrooms are being used as dormitories again.

Agreements are made:

1. The maximum number of children is 700
2. The maximum number of sponsor children is 300
3. New sponsor children come from the list of children for whom the parents currently do not pay a school fee.
4. The school fee may have to be increased and in December of this calendar year we decide that the school fee for a day child will go from 150 to 175 euros and the school fee for a boarding child from 250 to 275 euros. This will take effect on 01-01-2026.

We meet Marliz Schouten. She would like to take care of the PR in our board. Our board now consists of five people, namely Erik Koster (treasurer), Ronald van Veen (general member), Sandra Timmer (fundraising), Marliz Schouten (PR), Pieter (chairman) and Marga Streefkerk (general secretariat).

In October/November, Pieter and Marga will make their second monitor trip of this year. There are 7 sponsors traveling with us, who will stay in Lwengo for 10 days. They visit their sponsor children, but also a number of schools and see the projects that have been realized in recent years. It was a busy, but very worthwhile and good trip.

In recent years, we have noticed that Secondary School requires different monitoring than Primary School. In addition, we notice that Anthony has been very busy in the past year. From the board, we see an option to split the monitoring of Primary School and Secondary School. We discuss this during this trip with Anthony and his staff, namely splitting the monitoring of Primary School and Secondary School with the aim of dividing the work of monitoring. All the more so because Anthony does indicate that he has a lot of work to do with the entire organization and in this way we think he can lighten his task for Lwengo Kids Foundation, monitoring all sponsor children both at Primary and Secondary School. Primary School would then be paid for by Anthony and his staff and the Secondary School would then have to deal with Andrew Kalema as guidance and monitoring.

We had a good conversation about this, in which it was decided not to go through with this plan due to all kinds of sensitivities and on the explicit advice of the staff of Lwerudeso. It is decided to continue the monitoring in collaboration with Lwerudeso in the way we have been used to so far. However, we will continue to evaluate whether the current working method remains workable.

Projects:

Teachers' houses: The first block of 5 houses was financed by Lwengo Kids Foundation. The intention is that there will be four blocks of 5 houses in order to make it attractive for the staff to work at Lwerudeso and to retain them for the school. We have submitted an application to AFAS Foundation to finance housing for staff members. This application was granted and this block of homes was put into use at the end of 2025.

Annex: Three new classrooms are being built. Initially, these were intended for the deaf children who are in Primary School. However, we thought it was better that these children integrate with the hearing children. In the main building, a number of classrooms have now been cleared to make room for these children who are now taught in three groups per class.



The three new classrooms that are located a little further away at the Health Center will be used by the toddlers, namely Baby Class, Middle Class and Top Class.

Accommodation for disabled children: We want to solve the distressing situation that is now taking place in a classroom by realizing a good, safe accommodation where hygiene and good care are paramount. A plan has been written that will be worked out in more detail. The whole plan will have a good, careful preparation time for the plan to succeed. It could take years before it is actually realized.

Extra dormitories: Because classrooms have once again been used as dormitories, it has been decided to build two more dormitories. One for boys and one for girls. (see above). A major sponsor indicated in December that it would pay for these costs.

Actions:

Chicken and rice campaign Christmas has raised a lot of money and we can finance this campaign at both Christmas and Easter.

Oliebollen action: Judith and Roosmarijn have indicated that they will not participate in the action in Ermelo this year. Because we are no longer the 'charity' project of Christelijk College Groevenbeek, that income also disappears. The students sold a lot of oliebollen for us. Pieter and Marga are going to Uganda later than usual, because of traveling sponsors. This makes the preparation time very tight. All things considered, it has been decided not to organize an oliebollen action this year.

Within the board, they are thinking about organizing other actions, which has not yet resulted in decision-making this year.

Pub quiz: Two pub quizzes were organized again this year, namely in March and November. In November, a record number (27) teams were registered.

10th anniversary 2027: A start has been made with the organization. The date is set for May 22, 2027.

Special donations

In 2025, we were delighted with a bequest from one of our sponsors. We were able to finance the school bus and the total medical training of one of our sponsor students.

We were also allowed to draw on an Equity Fund, from which we could finance a number of projects.

In conclusion

We close this year with 285 sponsor children. We had to say goodbye to a number of children because they went to live somewhere else where we can no longer monitor them.

In the current situation, we are a healthy Foundation that looks to the future with great confidence.

For the report: Marga Streefkerk